



GROUP OF STUDENTS, WALLACE SCHOOL, RICEVILLE, TENN.

## Wallace School, Riceville, Tenn.

Rev. W. P. Ware, Principal

**W**ALLACE SCHOOL is one of the schools of the United Presbyterian Church. There were 3 teachers and 85 students in 1908. The annual expenses, \$1,350, are secured from the Board of Freedmen's Missions of the United Presbyterian Church. This work is the outgrowth of a Sabbath-school inaugurated by the mission workers at Athens, Tenn. The school was organized at Riceville by Rev. J. H. Tarter, in 1900.

Riceville is a small village of from eight hundred to a thousand people. About two hundred of the entire population are colored. The village is located sixty miles west of Knoxville, on the Southern Railway, in a farming section of east Tennessee.

The men find employment on either the farm or the railroad. A laborer receives fifty to sixty cents per day on the farm, and a dollar on the railroad.

The farm furnishes employment only about one hundred fifty or two hundred days a year; the railroad about two hundred fifty, at most. From this small income a great many support families of eight to ten persons the entire year, paying fifteen

cents per pound for bacon and from \$5.60 to \$8.00 per barrel for flour. Coarse fare, indeed, the laborer of this section must have.

The students range from four and a half to thirty-nine years of age. The aim is to give them the best possible training in the subjects taught, from the beginning through the grammar grades, including a daily Bible study in all grades, placing great stress on the Ten Commandments and the sins against each, the life of Christ, and stories of other leading Bible characters. This is meeting a great need. Many of the leaders in the various churches and Sabbath-schools are not well informed in what they teach. The evils arising from this condition are very many.

Preaching services are had twice a month. The membership of the church is thirty-two, many of whom are children. The congregation attends regularly. There is a midweek prayer meeting, a Bible reading, alternating with preaching, Junior and Senior Christian Unions, and a Women's Missionary Society. The purpose is to intensify and emphasize religious work.

The sewing room does a great deal to help train the girls industrially. There is no department which can give industrial training to the boys. The outlook for the boys is not good. If the boys could be trained along industrial lines, it would add very greatly to the future welfare of the race.